

## Message Text

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17

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 IO-03 L-01 PRS-01 OES-02

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R 150454Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 192

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T WELLINGTN 2703

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MARR, PARM, NZ, XP

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (SPNFZ)

REF: WELLINGTON 1905 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE CHARACTERIZATION OF GNZ'S SPNFZ PROPOSAL BY FOREIGN SECRETARY CORNER AS "PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE", SENIOR NZ FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE DESCRIBED AS DEEPLY DISTURBED OVER PROPOSAL'S POTENTIALLY ADVERSE IMPACT ON NZ'S FUNDAMENTAL SECURITY INTERESTS I.E. COUNTRY'S ULTIMATE RELIANCE ON US FOR PROTECTON. END SUMMARY.

2. WELL-PLACED MFA OFFICIAL, SPEAKING IN UTMOST CONFIDENCE, TOLD POL COUNS THAT HE AND OTHER SENIOR-LEVEL MFA OFFICIALS ARE DEPLY DISTURBED OVER LABOR GOVERNMENT'S PURSUIT OF SPNFZ PROPOSAL, WHICH THEY SEE AS THREATENING TO UNDERMINE NZ'S ABILKITY TO RELY ON ANZUS ALLIES--US AND AUSTRALIA-- FOR ITS SECURITY.

3. OFFICIAL DESCRIBED PROPSAL AS LEGACY OF DECEASED PM KIRK AS WELL AS EFFORT BY LABOR GOVERNMENT TO REFLECT  
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DEEP-SEATED ANTIPATHY WHICH MANY NEW ZEALANDERS HAVE

TOWARD ANYTHING NUCLEAR.

4. OFFICIAL SAID THAT IN MFA STAFF DISCUSSIONS OF SUBJECT FOREIGN SECRETARY CORNER HAD CHARACTERIZED GNZ'S SPONSORSHIP OF UN RESOLUTION ON SPNFZ AS "PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE", HOWEVER, OFFICIAL AND HIS COLLEAGUES THOUGHT IT WAS COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC FOR NEW ZEALAND TO BE SPONSORING A CONCEPT WHICH IF REALIZED WOULD EFFECTIVELY BAR US FROM COMING TO NZ'S ASSISTANCE IN EVENT OF SERIOUS MILITARY THREAT. HE HOPED LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER IT HAD SATISFIED ITS MANDATE ONCE IT HAD FOCUSED INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON IDEA OF NUCLEAR FREE SOUTH PACIFIC. BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ONCE SUBJECT WAS PLACED BEFORE UN, IT WOULD BE FAIR GAME FOR OTHER NATIONS, WHOSE MOTIVES MIGHT BE MORE SUSPECT AND WHOSE INTERESTS ARE NOT DIRECTLY AFFECTED, TO USE THE PROPOSAL FOR THEIR OWN ENDS.

5. SOURCE WAS CONFIDENT (AS IS EMBASSY) THAT SPNFZ WOULD EVAPORATE AS GNZ POLICY OBJECTIVE SHOULD NATIONAL PARTY UNSEAT LABOR IN NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. SOURCE ALSO CONFIDED THAT DURING RECENT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPANESE, LATTER HAD MADE CLEAR TO GNZ REPS THEY TOOK DIM VIEW OF SPNFZ PROPOSAL. (DEPT MIGHT NOTE THIS INDICATION OF JAPANESE ATTITUDE IN CONSIDERING ITS TACTICAL APPROACH TO DRAFT SPNFZ RESOLUTION IN UNGA - STATE 212321).

6. SOURCE REVEALED THAT MFA HAS SUBMITTED BRIEFING PAPER ON SPNFZ FOR USE BY PM ROWLING IN SPEAKING PUBLICLY ABOUT PROPOSAL. FOLLOWING ARE ABBREVIATED EXCERPTS FROM PAPER:

A. GNZ SEEKING ENDORSEMENT OF PROPOSAL BUT NOT ATTEMPTING TO LEGISLATE TOTAL EXCLUSION OF NUCLEAR POWER FROM SOUTH PACIFIC;

B. GNZ'S ASPIRATIONS FOR NUCLEAR FREE ZONE REMAIN ONLY ASPIRATIONS WITHOUT COOPERATION OF OTHER STATES; GNZ MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THEIR OWN PRECEPTIONS  
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OF THEIR NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE COMPLEX AND SENSITIVE NATURE OF NUCLEAR BALANCE;

C. NZ'S MOST IMPORTANT TREATY RELATIONSHIP IS WITH US AND AUSTRALIA THROUGH ANZUS, WITH WHICH SOME (READ OPPOSITION LEADER MULDOON) HAVE SUGGESTED SPNFZ IS INCOMPATIBLE; GNZ DOES NOT BELIEVE PROPOSAL CONFLICTS WITH SPIRIT OR LETTER OF ANZUS;

D. RECALL THAT LABOUR PARTY'S 1972 MANIFESTO  
STATED "PRIORITY WILL BE ACCORDED TO STRENGTHENING OF  
COOPERATION WITH AUSTRALIA AND MAINTAINING THE MOST  
FRIENDLY BASIS OF RELATIONSHIP WITH USA"; THIS REMAINS  
FIRM OBJECTIVE OF GNZ;

E. GNZ MUST AND SHALL PROCEED (REGARDING  
PROPOSAL) IN CONSULTATION WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AND  
FRIDNDS IN SOUTH PACIFIC.

7. FACT THAT ABOVE VIEWS AND INFORMATION HAVE  
BEEN CONVEYED TO US SHOULD BE MOST CAREFULLY PROTECTED.  
KILLGORE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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